

AveNEWS



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Manager's Report

Town Manager — Rick Davis, ICMA-CM

Much has already been said and reported regarding the recent restructuring of our Town government organization. While many will say "It's about time" or "They should have done that a long time ago," it's important to recognize that Fountain Hills operates with less employees per capita than almost any other city or town in Arizona — even if you consider that we don't have our own fire or police personnel. The reality is that when you compare the functions and services that we provide to other jurisdictions that provide a similar collective group of services, we are still among the leanest.

How did we get here and what is the recent restructuring going to mean to our level of service? First, economic realities of the last two years have prompted us to make very difficult cuts in programs and personnel. We began the 2009 budget year with reductions that we thought would be prudent in

any economy. We asked how we could do this or that more efficiently. We looked at workloads and came to some conclusions that affected positions in our Building Services Division. As time went on, the Great Recession deepened, and we made more cuts. As revenue continues to evaporate for our Town, we executed a more comprehensive restructuring, consolidating five departments into three and reducing staff.

The Town will now operate with three primary departments: Administration, Development Services, and Community Services. All services of the Town will be found within these three entities. While we will continue to scrutinize programs and expenses, we are committed to providing the highest level of service possible with the resources entrusted to us. This should not be taken to mean that one will not notice the effects of our economic struggle. Medians



few more weeds, we won't be able to address our road needs as quickly, grass may get a little long at the parks and along the Avenue, etc.

We'd like to say that this too will end. However, we reorganized our Town to accommodate a "new normal." Some revenue will return to support our Town when the economy improves, but it probably won't be like the good ol' days. We will rely more and more on our fine volunteers to help us through this time and into the future. We will rely more and more upon innovation and less and less upon "business as usual." Thank you for your continued trust during this difficult time.

Shea Climbing Lane Moving Ahead

Progress is well underway on this \$1.7 million project. The climbing lane on the west-bound side of Shea, between Palisades and Fountain Hills Boulevards, should be open to two lanes again by June 30, 2010. This project also adds a

sidewalk and landscaping along the corridor. The larger project will help move the more than 30,000 cars that traverse the roadway each day.



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NEWS AT A GLANCE

- *Shea Climbing Lane complete June 30th*
- *Bike lane enforcement stepped up*
- *Amy Silverhawk Photography on display through June at Community Center*
- *Noon Kiwanis holding blood drive June 11 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center.*
- *Free Party in the Park June 3rd — 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Golden Eagle Park*
- *Public Works Director Tom Ward retires*
- *Mike Archambault finishes terms on Town Council*

One man, One mower, One Country event Saturday at Sears — 11 a.m.

Town Bids Happy Retirement to Public Works Director

The Town bids farewell and happy retirement to a true pioneer and friend to Fountain Hills. Tom Ward began a new chapter in his life and retired as Director of Public Works on May 27, 2010.

As Public Works Director, Tom Ward oversaw the operations of the Street Department, Engineering and Facilities Operations. He served on many committees related to civil engineering, open space development, traffic engineering, traffic calming and downtown development. He also spearheaded the development of a Town-wide Pavement Management Analysis where 170 miles of streets were evaluated to develop a 25-year plan for all streets in Fountain Hills.

Tom worked in the Town of Fountain Hills for 38 years. He first worked for Trico of Arizona, Inc., a civil engineering and surveying company. He was mainly involved with most of the original Fountain Hills infrastructure design and installation, as well as subdivision planning in the early years of Town development. In the mid-80s, Tom became MCO's development coordinator and helped build subdivisions in Fountain Hills.

In April 1992, Mr. Ward came to work for Town of Fountain Hills as a Civil

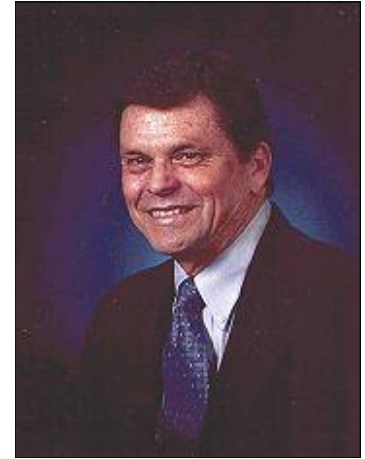
Engineering Inspector. His first task was to have 125 streets paved in 16 months with a budget of \$3.8 million.

Tom's educational background is in Architectural Engineering and Construction Engineering. He is Vietnam veteran and served in the USMC. His tour of duty was in 1966-67 and he received the Purple Heart Award while serving with the 3rd Force Recon Battalion. "Semper Paratus" is still a part of his vocabulary.

Tom has been married for 39 years to wife, Amy. They have a son, Brian, and a daughter, Kirsten, who are both married and raising their own families. Tom and Amy are the proud grandparents of two, 3-year old boys.

"I've only known Tom for two years and I'm not sure I've gained this much respect for someone in such a short period of time," said Town Manager Rick Davis. "I certainly have learned a lot from him."

Mayor Jay Schlum characterized Tom as "great public servant and friend of the Town." He said, "We are going to miss you, Tom. You have been a tremendous asset to our community."



"Towns generally go through cycles that involve some measure of decline. That never happened on Tom's watch," said Davis. "I hope every one of our citizens appreciates that."

Tom was honored at a May 25 luncheon at the Community Center. Tom's parting words honored his wife Amy, recognizing her as his primary motivator throughout his career. "She made my lunch for 27 years," Tom said of Amy. Both received a standing ovation.

The Town of Fountain Hills will not be the same without Tom Ward. We have been truly fortunate to have had him as a colleague.

Watch for Pedestrians at Golden Eagle and Palisades

The intersection of Palisades and Golden Eagle is usually not the scene of a tremendous amount of traffic or vehicle stacking. However, during the early mornings, especially when school is in session, it becomes a very busy place.

The traffic controls at this intersection feature flashing lights that are intended to slow motorists to 25 m.p.h. Motorists are required to stop completely and then take turns moving through the intersection. Crosswalks meanwhile are intended to conduct pedestrian traffic

across the intersection and onto the school property or to adjacent walkways.

The complicating factor is that some motorists have been seen moving into crosswalks in an effort to jockey their position in line while pedestrians are still crossing. As a result, there have been some close calls. Please remember that the law requires that a motorist remain stationary until a pedestrian has completely crossed.



A True Public Servant Ends His Council Service

It was 1972 when the Archambaults left their home in Ohio and ventured into the desert of the Great American Southwest. Then in his early 20s, a younger Mike Archambault joined his father in a building venture in an obscure little oasis in the Sonoran Desert known as Fountain Hills. Actually, the Archambaults were one of the first 10 families to move to Fountain Hills.

Mike recalls, "There were so few houses in town that if anyone was looking for someone, you just pointed out the house. You didn't need an address."

The Archambaults' first home was powered by a generator that was located outside Mike's bedroom. He said he didn't mind the rumbling and buzzing that it would make. "I thought of moving out here as an adventure," says Mike.

Mike recalls that Saguaro was the only paved street in town and you could leave your keys in your car and your doors unlocked. "Everyone knew everybody and watched out for each other," says Mike.

Fountain Hills changed over the next 10 years and so did Mike's career. Recognizing the need for quality custom cabinets, Mike established Wood Whims and has been operating that business ever since. Later on in his career, he brought his building and contractor experience together to help build the Veteran's Memorial, a 12,000 square foot structure that his father, a veteran of World War II and participant in the Battle of the Bulge, helped to financially support but was never able to see completed.

Town Manager Rick Davis recalls, "The first time I became aware that Mike had been so instrumental in building the memorial, it didn't surprise me. That is vintage Mike. This is a man who is all about other people — a tireless, selfless public servant."

Mike served in many leadership roles prior to becoming a Councilmember — as president of the Fountain Hills Youth Association and as a leader in the Order of the Arrow ceremonial teams. He remains a long-term member of the Sunset Kiwanis.

After coming to the Council in 2002, Mike quickly became popular with not only his colleagues on the Council, but among staff within Town Hall as well. Deputy Town Manager Julie Ghetti



remembers, "One year, there wasn't money for an employee Christmas party. Mike stepped in and paid for the party. That was just his nature. I also remember the barbecues he'd throw for the employees, but what I remember most was how well he thought and spoke of staff. No one had any doubt that Mike cared about them."

Mike's accomplishments over eight years on the Council are numerous — yet they all seem insignificant along side the legacy he leaves as a man of integrity, a true public servant, and genuine friend to his colleagues and fellow citizens. Town Hall will not be the same.

Kudos to the Mayor's Youth Council for a Job Well Done

The 2009-2010 Mayor's Youth Council teens truly defined leadership and volunteerism as shown through their dedication and commitment throughout the school year. They worked along side other organizations and groups, dedicating their time and energy to making this a better community.

Some of the teens are balancing their educations, jobs, school clubs, church groups, social activities, home life, and volunteerism. This year the MYC has a lot to be proud of:

- Just over 40 teen volunteers participated in the Mayor's Youth Council, contributing 275 volunteer hours, with some individuals reaching 20 hours each!

- They sent over 100 homemade holiday cards to support our troops.
- They volunteered at town events: Make-A-Difference Day; Turkey Trot; Capitol Tree Project; Punt, Pass and Kick; Homecoming; Fall Festival; and the Community Center Holiday Celebration "Global Gala"
- They continued their maintenance

of Westby Drive, part of their Adopt-A-Street commitment

- They assisted the Chamber of Commerce at both the Fall Festival and the Great Fair.
- They attended the Governors' Youth Leadership Day at the Capitol as youth representatives of the Town and met with District 8 Legislative Representative, John Kavanagh.

We are all very proud of our fine Mayor's Youth Council.

The Fountain at Night

The fountain is the town's signature landmark and continues to attract many tourists to the Town of Fountain Hills throughout the year. The Fountain's normal runtime hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for 15 minutes at the top of each hour. This leaves a 12-hour period of minimal turnover of the lake water which can cause some problems with the lake water quality during the hot summer months.

Therefore, the Fountain also functions as an aerator for the 29-acre reclaimed water lake that surrounds it. As a result of that function, each summer the Fountain can be seen running during the late night and early morning hours due to

the additional runtimes. The additional runtimes begin in April or May of each year depending on how fast the summertime temperatures reach 90 degrees and above.

Currently, there are three additional runtimes which began in May. The Fountain will run at 12 midnight, 3 a.m., and 6 a.m. for 15 minutes. This helps to improve aeration, oxygen levels, and the lake water quality when it is needed the most during the summertime.

Questions about the Fountain can be directed to Community Services.



Splash Park Provides Cool Way to Cool Down



The Rotary Splash Park is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to sunset. The operations and routine maintenance have been going smoothly this year.

The Splash Park will remain open until the last Sunday in September. Stop by and enjoy the nice, cool, wet spray of water as the summertime temperatures climb. Call Town Hall with questions, 816-5100.

Fountain Hills Buildings Efficient

The state Energy Office has some interesting facts about the energy efficiency of Town-owned buildings. The following is a comparison of the Town's energy costs per square foot with the 91 cents per square foot that is typical in a LEED certified building.

- Community Center/Central Plant/Library/Museum - \$2.03 per s.f.
- Street Yard Maintenance Buildings - \$1.05 per s.f.
- Town Hall \$1.62 per - s.f.
- Fire Station #1 - \$.48 cents per s.f.

- Fire Station #2 - \$2.00 per s.f.

According to the Energy Office, the Town is doing very well in comparison to the LEED standards. We were told that it is not atypical to see energy usage at \$5 per square foot on grant applications. Unfortunately there is a downside to our good performance. Our efficiency disqualifies us from applying for HVAC retrofitting grants. The Town will be continue ARRA funded Level 2 energy audits. These audits will help us better understand how to best maximize energy efficiency throughout all our buildings.



Recreation Serves Up Summer Fun for Everyone

Looking for something to do as summer begins? Sign up for a Town of Fountain Hills Community Services class today. June has plenty of workshops, special interest programs and sports to ensure we have a program to offer everyone. Remember, you can sign up for all classes by surfing on over to <http://www.fh.az.gov/recreation>. Remember, classes are first-come, first-served—so don't delay!

SPECIAL INTEREST

Yoga

Yoga is a scientific system designed to bring the practitioner health, happiness, and a greater sense of self. These techniques concentrate on posture, as well as creating a higher consciousness. Yoga utilizes stretching postures, breathing, and meditation techniques to calm the emotional state of mind and tone the body. Make sure to wear comfortable clothes and bring your floor mat and water. Classes will be held at Yoga Village, and you may also rent a mat for \$1. We are offering three separate courses next month. Each of the three courses costs \$40.



- Sunday, 5:30 - 7 p.m.: May 30-June 20: Course #5359; These classes focus on restoration.

- Mondays, 8:30 – 9:50 a.m.: June 7-28: Course #5355
- Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:50 p.m.: June 3-24: Course #5351

ONE DAY WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS

CPR Training

If you want to learn how to save a life in a moment of need and are at least 16 years of age, become certified in CPR through the American Safety and Health Institute. This course is not offered to healthcare professionals. The course is offered Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at a cost of \$30 to residents and \$40 to non-residents. Fountain Hills High School students can get community service hours by obtaining certification. Cost to students is \$20. You must sign up before noon on the Thursday prior to the class. Course #5366.



SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Men's Slow Pitch Softball

Parks and Recreation is looking for a few sluggers for the summer softball season. Come out for fun, fitness, and good competition. Softballs and umpires are provided. The season will end with a single elimination tournament.

The team with the best record will receive a plaque and tournament champions will receive t-shirts. Players not on a team are encouraged to contact Anjelica Giardino at 480-816-5132 or agiardino@fh.az.gov. Games begin Tuesday, June 8 at Golden Eagle Park. Cost is \$485 per team. Course #5326.

Junior Golf

Kids learn how to drive, pitch, and putt as well as everything they need to know about the game of golf from the pros. There is a maximum of 8 students in each 4-class session to guarantee a low student-to-teacher ratio. Classes are held Monday through Thursday, June 14-17, from 7 to 8 a.m. This course costs \$40 and is held at the Sun Ridge Canyon Golf Club and led by its Director of Instruction, Jeff Newell. Course #5339



Teen Programs

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and the Town of Fountain Hills are partnering to offer some great programs for teens this summer. Additional funding provided by the Fountain Hills Branch Library and the Fountain Hills Firefighters Fund.

Party in the Park Returns to Golden Eagle June 3rd

Drop-in teen event on Thursday, June 3 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Golden Eagle Park featuring a water slide, DJ and the all new "Gamez on Wheelz" video game trailer featuring Mario Kart, Halo & Guitar Mania. This event is **FREE** to attend and no registration is required.



Voters Approve New Town General Plan

On May 18th, the Town of Fountain Hills took an important step in moving forward into the next decade. On that day, 68 percent of voters voiced their support of General Plan 2010. The new Plan provides the Town's decision makers with a blue print for future actions that will likely, at one time or another, impact all of us.

At the time that staff began the effort of updating the Town's General Plan, Arizona law required that municipalities adopt a new General Plan every ten years. Our General Plan had been approved in 2002. What began as a technical update in 2007 transitioned into the more comprehensive 10-year update when we realized the substantial cost savings that the Town could realize by proposing a new General Plan earlier than was otherwise required.

With assistance from the State Department of Commerce in the form of a \$10,000 grant, initial research and drafting by a consultant, many meetings by a Planning and Zoning Commission steer-

ing committee, editing by staff, valuable additions and comments by volunteers, input from stakeholders, feedback on drafts provided by interested public, and guidance by members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council, a plan was produced that reflects the collective wisdom of all that were involved.

The new Fountain Hills General Plan 2010 uses a different, more user-friendly format than the 2002 Plan. The Land Use Plan map has been updated to reflect plan amendments made since the adoption of the 2002 plan. The plan map also shows the locations of proposed Area Specific Plans, which are smaller areas of our community which, due to specific circumstance or opportunity, are deserving of more detailed analysis and planning.

New exhibits have been included on soils, existing zoning, land ownership and service/employment uses. Goals and policies have been updated to reflect today's reality. Many of the ac-

tionable objectives have been translated into implementation activities that can be programmed by the Town Council as resources allow. The rules for amending the plan in the future have been clarified and simplified without sacrificing statutory requirements for notice and procedure. Other important additions to the new plan are the Town's environmental policies and the Long Range Sidewalk Plan.

With economic conditions the way they are in most, if not all, of the cities and towns in the state, the mandated update of a community's General Plan was recently pushed back five years by the legislature. Fortunately for the Town of Fountain Hills, we took on the task of updating our plan early enough so that we were able to do a comprehensive job with plenty of input and time to meet the challenges of our new reality.

The new Town of Fountain Hills General Plan can be found on the Town's web site at www.fh.az.gov/general-plan.aspx.

Law Enforcement Concerned About Cars in Bike Lanes

Law enforcement and Town officials say they are concerned about the hazard that parked cars in bike lanes pose to bicyclists and motorists themselves.

Officials note that there isn't enough room for people to safely exit their vehicles in the face of oncoming traffic, some of it traveling at speeds in excess of 40 m.p.h. Parked cars also cause bicyclists to negotiate these obstacles, also in the face of traffic.

Recently, this concern surfaced at Golden Eagle Park, where some park patrons have been parking in bike lanes in front of the park. Many of these patrons are attending various athletic or

other events at the park and have been utilizing the street for over-flow parking.

The Town asks all park patrons to refrain from parking in bike lanes. You may use any of the three parking lots associated with Golden Eagle Park. In fact, the northern lot, closest to Field 1, is often empty during larger events — and it takes just a few minutes to make one's way from that lot to Field 4. The School District has meanwhile been gracious in offering evening overflow parking at their District and school lots.

Outside of Golden Eagle Park, we appreciate your cooperation by not park-



ing in the designated bike lanes. MCSO will continue to cite motorists who violate this state and local law.

Our bike lanes and trails are such an important part of our community. Thanks for helping to make them safe for everyone.

Two Town Staffers Key to Reorg Transition Success

In the midst of Town Hall reorganization, two staff members have stepped-up in a big way to make the transitions as seamless as possible.

The reorganization of the Town departments involved combining Parks and Recreation, the Community Center, and Senior

Services. The department is now called the Community Services. One employee, Nancy Walter, has assumed the sole clerical responsibilities for the entire reorganized department.

In addition to providing support to the director and staff, she has now assumed the overall responsibility for preparing the agendas and recording the minutes for four Town commissions: Parks and Recreation, Senior Services, Community Center, and McDowell Mountain Preservation Commissions. As a former Parks and Recreation employee, and most recently a Community Center employee, she brought her knowledge of the operation of the Community Cen-

ter and Seniors to the new Community Services Department.

Also, as a former Parks and Recreation employee, she brings that background and experience with her. She has remained cheerful and upbeat despite the added workload and challenges with learning new tasks.

Nancy has already attended both of the new

commission meetings since assuming these new duties and has prepared the agenda and taken the minutes while also taking care of the various legal requirements of postings. We are indeed fortunate to have a person of Nancy's skills and positive attitude assume these duties as the Executive Assistant to the new Community Services Department.

Like Nancy, Janice Baxter has always been willing to step up and help out in any situation. When the reorganization was announced and she was left with many responsibilities, she didn't say a negative word about what might hap-

pen. Instead, Janice contacted Facilities and requested more space so she could be more efficient. She spent the weekend with the Facilities staff reorganizing files while wall panels were moved and file cabinets were given new locations.

Janice diligently went through all the stacks of Encroachment Permits, contact documents, bond files, and other miscellaneous paperwork requiring organization. She made sure that nothing was thrown out and asked questions while she was in the learning curve. She has made great strides to learn the Munis system for purchase orders, permitting, and all other operations that center around the Munis system.

Janice continues to provide exceptional customer service both internally and externally. Her attitude remains positive and she often asks, "What can I do to help?" It's people like Nancy and Janice that keep our level of service where it needs to be and contribute to the success of our Town. Kudos and thanks go out to both of these fine staff members.



Nancy Walters



Janice Baxter

A Hilly Terrain Can Make for Speeding Cars



One of the greatest things about Fountain Hills is the beautiful topography and natural beauty. However, if motorists aren't careful, they can find themselves flying down hills at breakneck speeds.

Such is often the case on Fountain Hills Blvd. The Town is cautioning motorists to watch their speeds while navigating their way both north and southbound. A speed trailer has temporarily been placed on the west side of Fountain Hills Blvd. to remind drivers

of their speed. Remember that much of the boulevard is posted with a maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. Motorists need to also be aware of cars entering and exiting the Botanical Garden and a number of side residential streets that empty onto Fountain Hills Blvd.

It's great to live in the Hills! However, we all need to ensure our downhill speeds don't endanger other citizens or ourselves. Thanks for checking your speedometer when traveling on Fountain Hills Blvd.

Town of Fountain Hills, AZ

16705 East Avenue of the Fountains
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

480 816-5100
www.fh.az.gov

The Height of Desert Living



Greening of Downtown

A Private and
Public Cooperative

The Business Vitality Advisory Council (a Town of Fountain Hills and Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce cooperative) engaged Swaback Partners (a landscape and urban planning firm) to provide a new perspective on urban design and planning relative to the future development of our downtown area.

The Greening of Downtown Project is the first step toward implementing that vision.

The Greening Project will be Funded by Private Donations

The Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association (FHCCA) is serving as the 501c3 non-profit collector of funds to promote the “Greening of Downtown” project. This program is slated to be a 2-year endeavor which will culminate during the State’s Centennial celebration on February 14, 2012. Like the creation of the Community Center, this project is a Public and Private Cooperative, and the FHCCA has already provided \$5,000 to launch the public outreach. The Eagle Mountain Homeowners’ Association has stepped up with a gift they hope other HOAs will replicate: \$500, representing \$1.00 for each member of their organization.

Be a part of the Greening of Downtown by visiting www.fountainhillsscca.org.

National Event Benefits Fountain Hills

It’s one man, one mower, and one country!
Our hometown Sears is hosting a national event Saturday, May 29th from 11 a.m. — 4 p.m. What’s it about?

Lucas Van Engen is driving a Craftsman riding mower across the country. He’ll be stopping in various places, but Fountain Hills will be his only stop in the Phoenix Area — and he’ll be dropping off a donation of \$5,000 to the Town of Fountain Hills Parks and Recreation Department. In fact, we are the only city to receive this donation in Arizona!

All are invited to come to Sears and meet the driver, see the mower, watch the ceremony during which the check will be presented to the Town, and enjoy free hot dogs and root beer floats. After the ceremony, Sears staff and Fountain Hills Soccer Club volunteers will be participating in a Fountain Park clean-up project.

On May 15 of this year, Mr. Engen climbed about his Craftsman mower and began his journey across America. In all, Lucas will



visit approximately 20 cities across the country in his Craftsman 54-inch Kohler Courage 26-horsepower Gas Powered Riding Garden Tractor.

He resides in New York City but grew up in South Bend, Indiana. According to Sears, Lucas is the perfect driver for this adventure.

“With a love for engineering and a passion for people and travel, he is well suited for the trip,” stated a Sears press release. “For Van Engen, it’s a dream come true to travel across the country, interview and meet people along the way, and find stories that will be shared with fans online, all the while on a tractor.”